

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney Barbara Dautre on June 11, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Page 3, line 8, -- elastomeric -- has been inserted after "elastic."

"malleable" has been changed to -- elastomeric -- in the following places: claim 1, lines 5, 6 and 9; claim 2, lines 5 and 7; claim 4, lines 11 and 12; claim 7, line 3; claim 8, last line. These changes have been made to better reflect the characteristics of the collar.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7, "A" has been changed to -- An electrical --.

Claims 3, 5, 6 and 8-12, -- electrical -- has been inserted before "connector."

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art of record discloses or teaches an electrical connector having an elastomeric collar for sliding over a cylindrical body, the collar having bumps which resist movement of the locking arms of the cylindrical body, in combination with the rest of the subject matter of the respective independent claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary F. Paumen whose telephone number is 571-594-3830. Or EMAIL: gary.paumen@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Gary F Paumen/
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